ments may be used in addition to, or in place of the latching profiles **296** and seal bores **298**. For example, the packer **292** may be provided with internal or external threads at one or both ends for interconnection of the packer in a tubular string.

As representatively depicted in FIG. **8**, a setting tool **300** is latched to the upper latching profile **296** for conveying the packer **292** into a well and setting the packer therein. The setting tool **300** has axially spaced apart annular elastomeric members **302** disposed on a generally rod-shaped mandrel **304**. An annular spacer **306** maintains the spaced apart relationship of the elastomeric members **302**. Each of the elastomeric members -**02** is thus positioned radially opposite one of the radially reduced portions **272***b*.

With the setting tool **300** in the configuration shown in FIG. **8**, the packer **292** may be conveyed within a tubular member (not shown) in a well. However, when the setting tool **300** is actuated to set the packer **292**, the radially reduced portions **272***b* are radially outwardly extended, so that the packer sealingly and grippingly engages the tubular member (see FIG. **10**). Radially outward extension of the radially reduced portions **272***b* is accomplished by displacing the mandrel **304** upward as viewed in FIG. **8** relative to the portion of the setting tool latched to the latching profile **296**. The elastomeric members **302** will be thereby axially compressed between a radially enlarged portion **308** formed on the mandrel **304**, the spacer **306**, and the portion of the setting tool latched to the upper latching profile **296**. When the elastomeric members **302** are axially compressed, they become radially enlarged, applying a radially outwardly directed force to each of the radially reduced portions **272***b*.

The mandrel **304** may be upwardly displaced to compress the elastomeric members **302** in any of a number of ways. For example, fluid pressure could be applied to the setting tool **300** to displace a piston therein connected to the mandrel **304**, a threaded member of the setting tool engaged with the mandrel could be rotated to displace the mandrel, etc.

Referring additionally now to FIG. **9**, yet another method **310** of setting the packer **292** is representatively illustrated. In the method **310**, a setting tool **312** is latched to the upper latching profile **296**, in a manner similar that used to latch the setting tool **300** to the packer **292** in the method **290** described above. The setting tool **312** includes spaced apart seals **314**, **316**, which internally sealingly engage the tubular member **294** above and below the radially reduced portions **272***b*. A flow passage **318** extends internally from within the setting tool **312** to the annular space radially between the setting tool and the tubular member **294** and axially between the seals **314**, **316**.

When it is desired to set the packer **292**, fluid pressure is applied to the flow passage **318**. The fluid pressure exerts a radially outwardly directed force to the interior of the tubular member **294** between the seals **314**, **316**, thereby radially outwardly extending the radially reduced portions **272***b*. The fluid pressure may be applied to the flow passage **318** in any of a number of ways, for example, via a tubular string attached to the setting tool **312**, combustion of a propellant within the setting tool, etc.

Referring additionally now to FIG. **10**, the packer **292** is representatively illustrated set within casing **322** lining a wellbore **324**. The packer **292** sealingly and grippingly engages the casing **322**. Note that the casing **322** is radially outwardly deformed opposite the radially outwardly extended radially reduced portions **272***b*, but such deformation is not necessary according to the principles of the present invention.

FIG. **10** representatively illustrates a method **320** of unsetting the packer **292** after it has been set, so that the packer may be retrieved or otherwise displaced from or within the well. A service tool **326** is conveyed into the casing **322** and inserted into the packer **292**. The service tool **326** is latched to the upper and lower latching profiles **296** in a conventional manner.

Fluid pressure is then applied to a piston **328** attached to, or formed as a portion of, an elongated mandrel **330**, which is latched to the lower latching profile **296**. An axially downwardly directed force is thereby applied to the mandrel **330**. This force causes the lower end of the'tubular member **294** to be displaced axially downward relative to the upper end thereof, axially elongating the tubular member and causing the tubular member to radially inwardly retract.

When sufficient force is applied to elongate the tubular member **294**, the sealing material **274***b* and grip members **276***b* will disengage from the casing **322**, permitting the packer **292** to be retrieved from the well or otherwise displaced relative to the casing. The fluid pressure may be applied to the piston **328** in any of a number of ways, such as via a tubular string attached to the tool **326**, combustion of a propellant within the setting tool, etc.

Of course, many modifications, additions, substitutions, deletions, and other changes may be made to the various embodiments of the present invention described above, which changes would be obvious to a person skilled in the art, and these changes are contemplated by the principles of the present invention. Accordingly, the foregoing detailed description is to be clearly understood as being given by way of illustration and example only, the spirit and scope of the present invention being limited solely by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of interconnecting first and second wellbores, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a deflection device within the first wellbore, the deflection device having a substantially longitudinally extending guide layer outwardly overlying a body of the deflection device, and the guide layer having a hardness substantially less than that of the body; and

displacing a cutting tool substantially longitudinally relative to the deflection device, a guide portion of the cutting tool contacting the guide layer, thereby guiding the cutting tool to cut an opening through a tubular structure lining the first wellbore while cutting through the guide layer.

2. The method according to claim **1** wherein the positioning step further comprises engaging the deflection device with an orienting device within the first wellbore.

3. The method according to claim **2**, further comprising the step of engaging a wellbore connector with the orienting device.

4. The method according to claim **3**, further comprising the step of extending a portion of the wellbore connector laterally outward into the opening.

5. The method according to claim **3**, further comprising the step of drilling the second wellbore through the wellbore connector.

6. The method according to claim **5**, further comprising the step of sealingly engaging the wellbore connector with a tubular member extending into the second wellbore.

7. Apparatus for forming an opening through a tubular structure lining a wellbore, the apparatus comprising:

an elongated body having a generally longitudinally extending outer side surface portion positionable to

face the intended opening location on the tubular structure, and along which a cutting tool may be moved while forming the opening; and

a guide layer attached to the outer side surface portion, the guide layer having a hardness substantially less than that of the body and being removable by a cutting tool as it moves along the outer side surface portion while forming the opening.

8. The apparatus according to claim **7**, wherein the body further has an orienting device engagement portion attached thereto, the engagement portion being configured for engagement with an orienting profile positioned in the wellbore.

9. The apparatus according to claim **7**, wherein the body further has a laterally inclined deflection surface formed thereon proximate an end of the body.

10. The apparatus according to claim **9**, wherein the guide layer is not attached to the deflection surface.

11. The apparatus according to claim **7**, further comprising a cutting tool releasably secured to the body.

12. The apparatus according to claim **11**, wherein the cutting tool includes a guide portion, the guide portion contacting the guide layer and being guided longitudinally thereby when the cutting tool is displaced longitudinally relative to the body.

13. The apparatus according to claim **11**, wherein the cutting tool is configured to cut through the guide layer when the cutting tool is displaced longitudinally relative to the body.

* * * * *